

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 110

Adopted in Assembly September 6, 2001

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Adopted in Senate September 12, 2001

Secretary of the Senate

This resolution was received by the Secretary of
State this _____ day of _____, 2001,
at _____ o'clock ____M.

Deputy Secretary of State

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RESOLUTION CHAPTER _____

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 110—Relative to breast cancer.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 110, Wayne. Breast cancer.

This measure would designate the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and would designate October 19, 2001, as Breast Exam and Mammography Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is an epidemic that will strike one out of eight women in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women and is second only to lung cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths among women, both nationally, and in California; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, approximately 40,000 women will die of breast cancer and some 192,000 new cases will be diagnosed in 2001; and

WHEREAS, In the State of California, approximately 4,000 women will die of breast cancer and nearly 21,000 new cases will be diagnosed in 2001; and

WHEREAS, In California, the highest incidence of breast cancer is found in Anglo women, the highest mortality rate occurs among African-American women, and the greatest percentage of late-stage diagnosis occurs among Latino and African-American women; and

WHEREAS, Breast cancer is increasingly being diagnosed among women in their 30's and 40's; and

WHEREAS, More than 70 percent of women with breast cancer exhibit none of the known risk factors; and

WHEREAS, Although evidence is emerging about a link between environmental factors and breast cancer, not enough research is being funded to pursue this link; and

WHEREAS, Despite over 25 years of the "war on cancer," there is still no known cause, cure, or method of preventing breast cancer; and



WHEREAS, While mammography remains an important method for breast cancer detection, it often fails to identify the disease effectively, particularly among women in their 20's, 30's, and 40's; and

WHEREAS, Historically, breast cancer research has been grossly underfunded at the federal level, topping a decade of erosion in federal appropriations in the 1980's for all cancer research; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Cancer Institute, the incidence of breast cancer in the United States increased 32 percent between 1982 and 1989; and

WHEREAS, By the following decade, the 105th Congress appropriated almost \$530 million for federal breast cancer research. However, much more is needed to fund research directed at finding a cure and means of preventing breast cancer adequately; and

WHEREAS, Californians now have a unique opportunity to support breast cancer research in this state through the California Breast Cancer Research Fund Act, which allows individuals to make a voluntary contribution to support research when filing state income tax returns; and

WHEREAS, Heightened public awareness and education about breast cancer are crucial to the national effort to eradicate this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, Prominent organizations like the National Breast Cancer Coalition focus on three important goals to achieve such a worthy purpose; (1) increasing appropriations for high quality, peer-reviewed research, and working within the scientific community to focus research on prevention and finding a cure, (2) increasing access for all women to high quality treatment and care and to breast cancer clinical trials, and (3) increasing the influence of women living with breast cancer and other breast cancer activists in the decisionmaking that impacts all issues surrounding breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of all women, men, and families to join together to promote greater awareness about a disease that affects all Californians, the need for true early detection and adequate treatment options, and the urgency of finding a cure; now, therefore, be it



Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California, in order to heighten public awareness about breast cancer, including the need to redouble efforts to prevent and cure this disease, declares the month of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, The Legislature of the State of California, in order to recognize that, to date, breast exam and mammography are still the primary methods of breast cancer detection available to women, and that, therefore, all women should perform monthly breast self-exams, women over 40 years of age should have regularly scheduled mammograms every year, and women 20 to 39 years of age, inclusive, should have a clinical breast examination performed by their health care provider, declares October 19, 2001, as Breast Exam and Mammography Awareness Day; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California emphasizes that the public education efforts conducted during the month of October should be part of an ongoing, year-round effort to raise public awareness across the state, and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California recognizes that while early detection through routine mammograms, clinical exams, and breast self-exams are important, the only effective means of protecting women against breast cancer is to make breast cancer research a priority and fund critically needed research into the cause, cure, and prevention of breast cancer; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a suitably prepared copy of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.



Attest:

Secretary of State

